

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

No claims are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-20, 22, 25-28 and 30-44 remain pending in this application.

Double Patenting Rejection:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4-7, 9-20, 22, 25-28 and 30-44 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,043,823. To expedite prosecution, Applicants are filing a terminal disclaimer and associated fee concurrently herewith, thereby overcoming this rejection.

Conclusion:

Since there are no other objections or rejections raised in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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